

Crazy Steelin' Rhythm – Song Notes

1. *Four Steps West* – This instrumental was recorded around 1952 by Hank Garland but never released. Pedal steel guitarist Don Davis' playing is reminiscent of Speedy West.
2. *Out of Odessa* - This song is a Tom Hammel composition, written specifically for this album. Hammel created this song by putting together some basic jazz chords and creating a middle 8 part that starts off with a minor chord. After jamming with some scratch tracks, he came up with a melody. When he did, he was surprised to find that the middle 8 section sounded like what a Russian national anthem might sound like. His late father was born in the Ukraine near Odessa, and had to leave the area during WWII, hence the title "Out of Odessa".
3. *Tenderly* - A popular song and Jazz standard published in 1946. Notable versions have been recorded by singers, such as Sarah Vaughan and Nat King Cole, and pianists, such as Art Tatum, Bill Evans and Peruchín.
4. *Cherry* - Harry James originally recorded a version of this song in 1942 with his orchestra. Discovery of this song for Tom was a video of Doc Martin, steel guitarist, playing the song in the 1950's on The Ozark Jubilee TV show.
5. *Crazy Rhythm* - This song was first recorded for Victor by Roger Wolfe Kahn and His Orchestra in New York City in April 1928. Many artists covered the song including Bob Wills and his band who performed the song as an instrumental.
6. *Si Tu Vois Ma Mere* – This song was written in 1952 by Sidney Bechet after triumphing at the 1949 Paris Jazz Festival. He decided to spend the last decade of his life in Paris where he wrote this song. Hammel first came upon the song in the soundtrack from the Woody Allen movie "Midnight in Paris"
7. *It's All Your Fault* - Written in 1942 by Cindy Walker and first recorded by Bob Wills & His Texas Playboys in 1947. Vocalist Alex Pangman previously recorded this song on her 2001 album "Can't Stop Me from Dreaming"
8. *Mission to Moscow* - Composed by Mel Powell in 1942 and originally performed by the Benny Goodman Orchestra as a big band number, Bob Wills took Mission to Moscow to a totally different level. It has since become something of a standard for modern Western Swing bands.
9. *When Sunny Gets Blue* - written in 1956 this song is now a Jazz standard. Originally recorded by Johnny Mathis and Ray Conniff and his Orchestra in 1956, the song became a big hit. Numerous artists have recorded the song. Hammel's favourite version is by Nat King Cole.
10. *What Is This Thing Called Love?* - The song was written by Cole Porter in 1929 for the musical *Wake Up and Dream* and was first performed by Elsie Carlisle in March 1929. The song has become a popular jazz standard and one of Porter's most often played compositions. Hammel recalls hearing a rousing version on Bob Wills radio recording series called the *Tiffany Transcriptions*.
11. *Steelin Home* - This song was written by pedal steel player Noel Boggs who played with Bob Wills & His Texas Playboys in 1953. He was known for playing a 4-neck Fender Stringmaster steel guitar.
12. *Willow Weep for Me* This song was written in 1932 by Ann Ronel and recorded by Billie Holiday. Jackie Gleason believed there was a ready market for romantic instrumentals. His goal was to make "musical wallpaper that should never be intrusive, but conducive". His version motivated Tom to cover it on pedal steel guitar.